

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

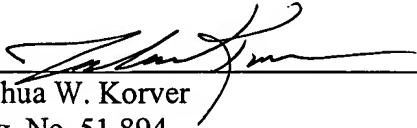
This preliminary amendment is submitted to support the filing of a divisional application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). The divisional application claims priority to application Serial No. 10/044,294, filed October 26, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application No. 60/302,831, filed July 3, 2001. The divisional application is directed to group III (claims 12-19) of the restriction requirement dated April 9, 2003.

The specification is amended to include the paragraph directed to the claim of priority to U.S. application No. 10/044,294. Claims 1-11 and 20-43 are canceled. Claims 44-55 are added. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request the entry of this preliminary amendment. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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